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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



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OR HE'LL
KILL US BOTH!



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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™



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MARVEL'S NEWEST SENSATION-- DEATHLOK! DEATHLOK'S NEWEST FOE-- WAR-WOLFI

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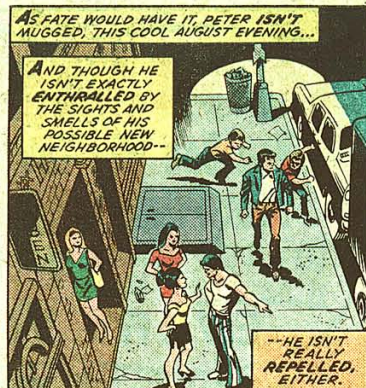


--AND THE BEST I CAN DO FOR AN APARTMENT IS A TENEMENT IN CHELSEA!

PETER, YOU'VE FALLEN ON BAD TIMES--



--AND WITH YOUR LUCK, THINGS WILL GET WORSE-- AND YOU'LL BE MUGGED!



AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, PETER ISN'T MUGGED. THIS COOL AUGUST EVENING...

AND THOUGH HE ISN'T EXACTLY ENTHRALLED BY THE SIGHTS AND SMELLS OF HIS POSSIBLE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD--

--HE ISN'T REALLY REPELLED, EITHER.



WHICH IS WHY, WHEN HE REACHES THE NEWS-STAND WHERE LIZ ALLEN IS WAITING FOR HIM, HE'S IN A MORE OR LESS CHEERFUL MOOD--AND NOT IN HIS USUAL DROWN STUDY.

HEY, HEY, LIZ--LOOK--ING FOR SOMEONE?

I WAS WAITING FOR PRINCE CHARMING, MR. PARKER--

--BUT YOU'LL DO--

--TILL SOMETHING BETTER COMES ALONG.



GEE, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO FLATTER A FELLA, MS. ALLEN.

A GUY MIGHT THINK YOU'RE NOT HAPPY TO SEE HIM--KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

ENOUGH ALREADY, I'M HAPPY, I'M HAPPY!

HERE--TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

"THREE AND A HALF ROOMS--ONE HUNDRED TEN A MONTH."



THAT'S ABOUT MY LEVEL, ALL RIGHT.

WHERE IS THIS PLACE, LIZ?

OVER HERE, I LOOKED UP THE ADDRESS WHILE I WAS WAITING.



WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A TRY, RIGHT?

AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT NOTHING TO--



YEAH?

AH--ER-- THIS APARTMENT -- YOU PUT AN AD--?



THE OLD LADY GRUNTS; THE DOOR BUZZES AND UNLOCKS; AND SOON, PETER AND LIZ FIND THEMSELVES ON A RICKETY STAIRWAY--AND ABOVE THEM--

C'MON, ALREADY. I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY.

WELL, IF YOU'RE BUSY--



NOT TOO BUSY TO SHOW YOU AROUND, SONNY.

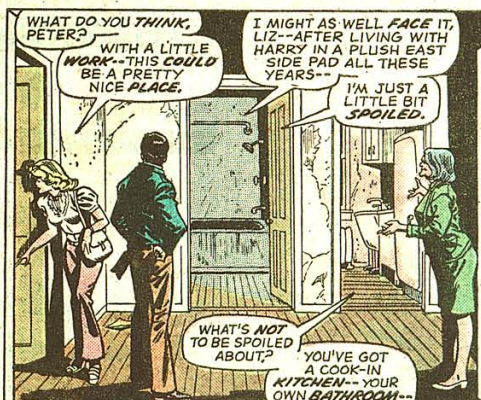
THAT'S WHAT THE LANDLORD PAYS MEN IN MY HUSBAND FOR--



--TO SHOW PEOPLE AROUND, FIX THE PIPES, MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T NO LATE PARTIES--YOU KNOW THE DRILL.

YOU'RE THE SUPERIN-TENDENT?

NOT ME, MY HUSBAND. I'M MAMIE. HE'S BARNEY.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, PETER?

WITH A LITTLE WORK--THIS COULD BE A PRETTY NICE PLACE.

I MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT, LIZ--AFTER LIVING WITH HARRY IN A PLUSH EAST SIDE PAD ALL THESE YEARS--

I'M JUST A LITTLE BIT SPOILED.

WHAT'S NOT TO BE SPOILED ABOUT?

YOU'VE GOT A COOK-IN KITCHEN-- YOUR OWN BATHROOM--



--EVEN A VIEW OF THE RIVER.

WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING, ANYWAY.

WHICH WINDOW IS IT?

THAT ONE.

YOU HAVETA SORT OF LEAN OUT--BUT IF YOU LOOK WEST, THERE SHE IS.



RIGHT.

"YOU HAVETA SORT OF LEAN OUT-- AND THERE SHE IS."

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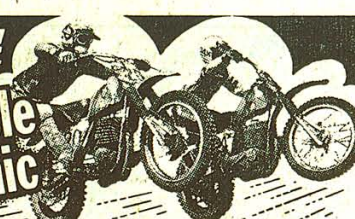
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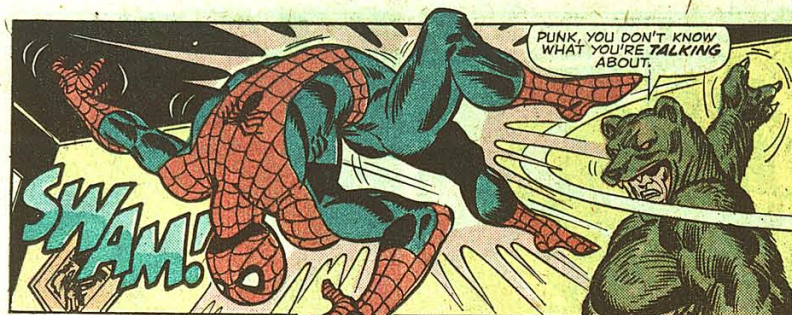


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DR. STRANGE GIRDS HIMSELF FOR THE FINAL BATTLE WITH THE SILVER DAGGER!





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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Marvel,

I have always liked the Green Goblin, and when he died in #122, I did not expect to see him back again. How wrong I was! SPIDER-MAN #136 was great. I particularly liked the idea of Peter seeing Gwen's face superimposed over Mary Jane's.

The artwork was great, and the story was beyond compare.

Just one little thing, though. On page 17, panel four, the caption says that "the hours pass slowly" while Spidey waited for the Goblin. Wouldn't Spidey's web-hammock have fallen down?

I just want to make one more comment before I sign off: DONT KILL MARY JANE!

Make Mine Marvel!

John Schutkeker
288 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, N.Y. 14209

Kill Mary Jane?!? Before she and Peter have a chance to fall deeply in love and decide to get married?? C'mon, John...everybody knows we're more sadistic than that! (Just kidding, of course. But if you'd read all the letters we received regarding Gwen's death, you'd be tempted to make morbid jokes like that, too.)

Seriously, though, you're absolutely right about Spidey's web-hammock. Spider-Man's webbing evaporates after an hour's exposure to the air. But Spidey simply made himself another hammock as each hour passed. There just wasn't room to show it each time. Okay?

Dear Marvel,

Let me add my congratulations to those I'm sure you've already received on SPIDER-MAN #136. It was just great! It has to be the best storyline since the original Goblin murdered Gwen. Of course, I have come to realize that these fantastic stories are par for the course when it comes to Marvel comics. You always seem to surpass your previous great efforts. Thank you.

I especially liked the way you reintroduced the Goblin. Who but the Goblin would ever have thought about blowing up Peter's apartment? Sheer genius! You guys have really got it together.

I am also pleased with the way you created Harry as the new Green Goblin. He seems to be much more dangerous than his father. He is in better shape and seems craftier. I only wonder how Spider-Man can stop him without killing him. It is rather obvious that Harry's desire for vengeance, along with the effects of his drug-taking, have totally snapped his mind. How many more times can you have him run out of power and leave to get some more? I'm sure that the shock treatment used by Spidey on the original Goblin won't work on Harry.

But I'm also sure you will figure out a solution. You always seem to come up with something workable.

Well, until Parker becomes Jameson's best friend and gets a raise from the old tightwad. Make Mine Marvel!

Craig Royer
1230 E. 38th Street #130-B
Austin, Texas 78722

Pete probably is of Jonah's best friend, Craig, as you no doubt realize if you've read any of our stories about JJ's lycanthropic progeny, the MAN-WOLF. Spidey's always

tried to protect the younger Jameson from the police. But you'll never get Jonah to admit it!

As regards the Green Goblin, we hope you found Garry and Ross' solution to the problem as "workable" as you'd hoped. However, we doubt that it's a permanent one, no matter how well it worked this time. Remember how long it took Spidey to truly defeat the original Gobby?

In any event, our sincere thanks for your words of praise—and the same goes for John Schutkeker. Your two letters pretty much summed up the reaction of the vast majority of Marveldom to the Goblin's grotesque re-entry into Spidey's already problem-plagued life. The enthusiasm was practically unbounded. We're grateful.

Of course, the reaction wasn't unanimous...



Dear Marvel,

I thought we already went through this bit with the Green Goblin and Peter Parker. You've got to be kidding, bringing him back—especially with his knowing Spidey's identity. It took the death of Gwen to get rid of this refugee from Halloween: now who are you gonna kill off to rid Harry of Pete's not-so-secret secret? Is he going to have a lapse of memory, like his late father? Is Mary Jane going to fall within the shadow of the Peter Parker jinx? Is Aunt May finally going to shake hands with death after all these years? Or is JJ going to be hit by a Goblin pumpkin as Spidey ducks to avoid it?

I stood up and applauded when Norman Osborn finally met his demise, and now I've got to suffer through an instant replay of the whole routine. Please get rid of the Goblin forever, along with his knowledge of Pete's secret.

Chad B. Goyette
4401 Clark Avenue
Long Beach, Calif. 90808

... Okay, Chad. We'll promise you this much: when Spidey does finally manage to finish off this Goblin, however it's accomplished—if it's ever accomplished—we promise, there won't be a third one.

Instead, we'll have Spider-Man stumble on the heretofore unknown Sixth Sleeper, and he and Captain America will... oh. You don't like that idea, either, huh?

LETTERS PAGE CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

NOTES AND NEWS ON A NESTFUL OF NEBBISHES!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Boyl! I was so long-winded last ish, telling you all about our mighty Marvel Calendar and the great new ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, both of which ought to be on sale right about now, as well as our HITLER documentary mag, plus NOSTALGIA ILLUSTRATED, and the TREASURY OF SPIDER-MAN, that I promised Roy and the gang I'd stifle myself a little this time in order to leave them a few paragraphs to tell you about the zillion other wonderments from the hallowed halls of Marvel!

So, in order to give you a breather — and let the Bullpen carry the ball — I'll just take a minute to mention what a great time I had lecturing at the University of New Hampshire recently, and what a kick it was to receive the Popular Culture Association's Award of Excellence a few weeks ago in Milwaukee. You should have seen upwards of two thousand college students, professors, deans, and other dwellers in the rarified atmosphere of academia praising the merit and the miracle of Marveldom! Verily, 'twas a fete to remember! I can hardly tell you what a great source of satisfaction it is to know that, with your help, we've made the art of comic-books widely respected, universally accepted, and avidly acclaimed both here and overseas. Yep, I've gotta admit it — we're a great team, you and your blushtin' Bullpen!

And now, unless Iron Man finds a pin-up of Aunt May in Conan's footlocker, I promise to clue you in on what's happening with our latest pulse-pounding project — the feature-length, live-action Spider-Man movie now in preparation — the next time we meet!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We know it's a wee bit late, for those of you who've already picked up on our litlin' lineup of 75¢ and \$1 magazines — and who hasn't? — but we thought we'd best clue you in officially: Ye Editor-in-Chief (that's ROY THOMAS for you old-timers out there) has formally appointed a couple of new Editors to help him out with our ever-burgeoning titles. First there's Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, who's being kept busy with DRACULA LIVES, VAMPIRE TALES, and our zestfully zany CRAZY Mag, while Roy himself keeps his hand in with SAVAGE TALES, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and our new Science-fiction mag, the first issue of which (tentatively titled WORLDS UNKNOWN, Vol. 2, No. 1, last time we looked) should be on sale even as we speak! That leaves TONY "The Tiger" ISABELLA, aided and abetted by Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT, to preside over

the bulk (and we do mean bulk!) of black-and-white masterpieces. And wouldn't you know that, with no less than four guys working fulltime, there's still more than the poor guys and our overworked production staff can handle! ITEM! Let's hear a hearty "Welcome Aboard!" for a contingent of dynamic new artists who hail from the far-off Philippines, and who're adapting by leaps and bounds to the Mighty Marvel style of dramatic storytelling! First, there's Tremendously-Talented TONY deZUNIGA, who's currently earning hordes of new fans illustrating tales of Dracula and the Golem, as well as embellishing the Ka-Zar epics in SAVAGE TALES. Next, there's Awesome ALFREDO ALCALA, already earning kudos in the pages of ZOMBIE, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and elsewhere (Alfredo, believe it or don't, pencils and inks some sixty pages per month of beautiful, finely-detailed artwork). Thirdly, there's Slamin' SONNY TRINIDAD, whose Morbius and Dracula stories soon will chill you to the marrow — and then there's Startling STEVE GAN, whose "Brak the Barbarian" sagas in SAVAGE TALES are setting sword-and-sorcery fandom on its collective ear! In addition, there are several other up-and-coming young artists who will soon be thrilling you in the pages of our back-and-white block busters — all presided over, at our Eastern-Hemispheric Branch, by Tony's ever-lovin' spouse MARY deZUNIGA, who keeps all those pandemonious pages moving across the wide Pacific. They're all knocking themselves out, so let them — and us — know how you feel about their efforts in the months to come okay?

ITEM! Here's a hale-and-hearty hello to DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT (hereinafter referred to as DAVE), who's piped himself aboard to help Dauntless DON MCGREGOR proofread all our color comics. Not only is Dave a scribe to watch in his own write, as someone once said, but he's also a damn literary agent in his spare time! Don and Dave are backed up, in turn, by Roy's new Person Friday, Impish IRENE VARTANOFF, who's been active in fan circles for years and who's now overseeing our rhapsodic reprints and letters pages (when she isn't working on her Master's Thesis, that is — nobody rests at night among the batty Bullpen!). Like we said — welcome, one and all!

ITEM! It's not all unmitigated good news this month, though: Both DON HECK and GIL KANE's lovely wife ELAINE were in separate auto accidents, from which they're both recuperating (and doing nicely, we're overjoyed to say). Likewise, Lethal LARRY HAMA burned his fingers slightly in a freak electrical accident at the studio he shares with DICK GIORDANO, NEAL ADAMS, RALPH REESE, and others. Dick, Neal, et al. stepped in like troopers to help him finish off the current Iron Fist episode

— for which thanks, both from us and from the legion of kung-fu fans the world over! (Whew! And you wondered why editors get gray hairs?)

ITEM! Anybody out there catch Big JIM HARMON, West-Coast Editor of our photo-filled MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES mag, on a recent edition of the NBC-TV show "Knowledge" — or else on a certain nationally-syndicated news program? It seems that, ever since we hired J.H. to edit the magazine, he's been simultaneously discovered by the media men of the land, as well! (Just keep pluggin' M.O.M., Jim — not that you need any hints from us!)

ITEM! Can't resist sneaking in a plug for our newest nutty nonsense mag — for those of you who've made CRAZY the toast of the town (mainly, Hoboken, New Jersey). This one's for those of you who like your humor flavored with a touch of the macabre — a hint of the horrible — a pinch of the mysterious. And — are you ready for this? — the name of our new chills-and-chuckles sensation is... ARRGH! (No, Irving, that's not our reaction to it; that's the title: ARRGH! Pick up a copy today — and go ARRGH yourself! "Nuff said!

Just a last-minute reminder that the MIGHTY MARVEL CALENDAR FOR 1975 is just going on sale in real live book stores from coast to coast! We think you'll find it \$3.95 well-spent (how that for soft sell!) But, you know muddled up Marvel we always have to let a typo or two sneak thru, just to give you something to hunt for. So, we'll offer a shiny new no prize to the first dozen Calendar purchasers who spot which day of the year is accidentally printed twice (while one day was omitted entirely). No fair finding other boobies now — you know how insecure we get!

ITEM! That's all we've got room for on this page — but there's an extra item or three on our Bullpen Bonus Page, elsewhere in this issue. We wouldn't want you to think we've been idle now, would we? See you there, Marvelophil!

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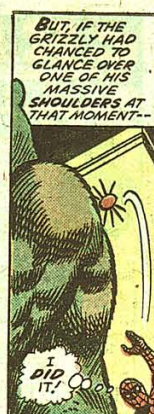
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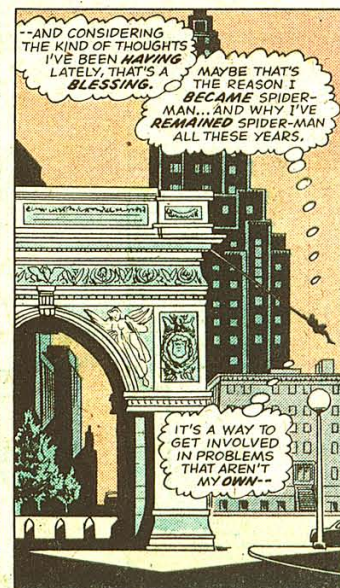
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IRON MAN AT A COMIC BOOK CONVENTION? BELIEVE IT--IN ISSUE #721



BULLPEN BONUS PAGE! (WHAT ELSE?)

JUST ROOM FOR A FEW QUICKIES:

ITEM! Ever wonder why one writer or artist gives up a feature to another? Well, here's a case in point: At almost the same time recently that STEVE (Baby) GERBER got an overwhelming urge to write our DEFENDERS spectacular, it seems that live-in LEN WEIN got a similar itch to script a lone-wolf superhero like DAREDEVIL. The first Ye Editor knew of it was when the pair marched into my office in tandem and said they'd like to trade books for a while; I figured each of 'em would bring a new and infectious enthusiasm to already-popular mags, so I okayed the deal. Ditto with Len and Merry GERRY CONWAY, who're trading writing chores on FANTASTIC FOUR and MARVEL TEAM-UP, mainly so that Ger can handle virtually all of the many Spider-Man pages which are unleashed by the House of Marvel every month. (All, 'that is, except those which are scripted by an obscure newcomer named JEANIE THOMAS - no relation to Ye Editor, except by marriage - for our nefarious new, title, SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, published in conjunction with TV's Electric Company, big brother to Sesame Street!)

ITEM! It's the hit of fandom - in just one earth-shattering issue! Ordinarily, that's the kind of remark we'd be making about a single new title, right? But,

in this case, it's equally true of both of our new one-dollar wonders, PLANET OF THE APES and THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN! Already, the artistry of PLOOG, TUSKA, and MOENCH is being hailed by gorillaphiles the world over; already, our swarthy Cimmerician (as interpreted by BUSCEMA, SMITH, and the like) has gained a new Hyborian Legion of enthusiastic admirers! And, with the second issues of these wondrous winners - now on sale - there can no longer be any doubt. It's the Marvel Age of Magazines as well as the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, if you're still nagged by any last, lingering doubts, just sneak a peak at what BUSCEMA and company are doing in SAVAGE TALES - at our steel-fisted DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU title, which is already going monthly by unprecedented popular demand - at our currently-debating science fiction \$1 mag which you've clamored for, long and loud - at our widely-acclaimed adaptation of Bram Stoker's classic novel in DRACULA LIVES - at Satana and at Gabriel, Devil-Hunter, in the pages of HAUNT OF HORROR - and at all the way-out wonderment in mags like ZOMBIE, VAMPIRE TALES, CRAZY MONSTERS UNLEASHED, MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES, etc., etc., etc. - and maybe you'll get what we're driving at! See you next month, of' buddy!

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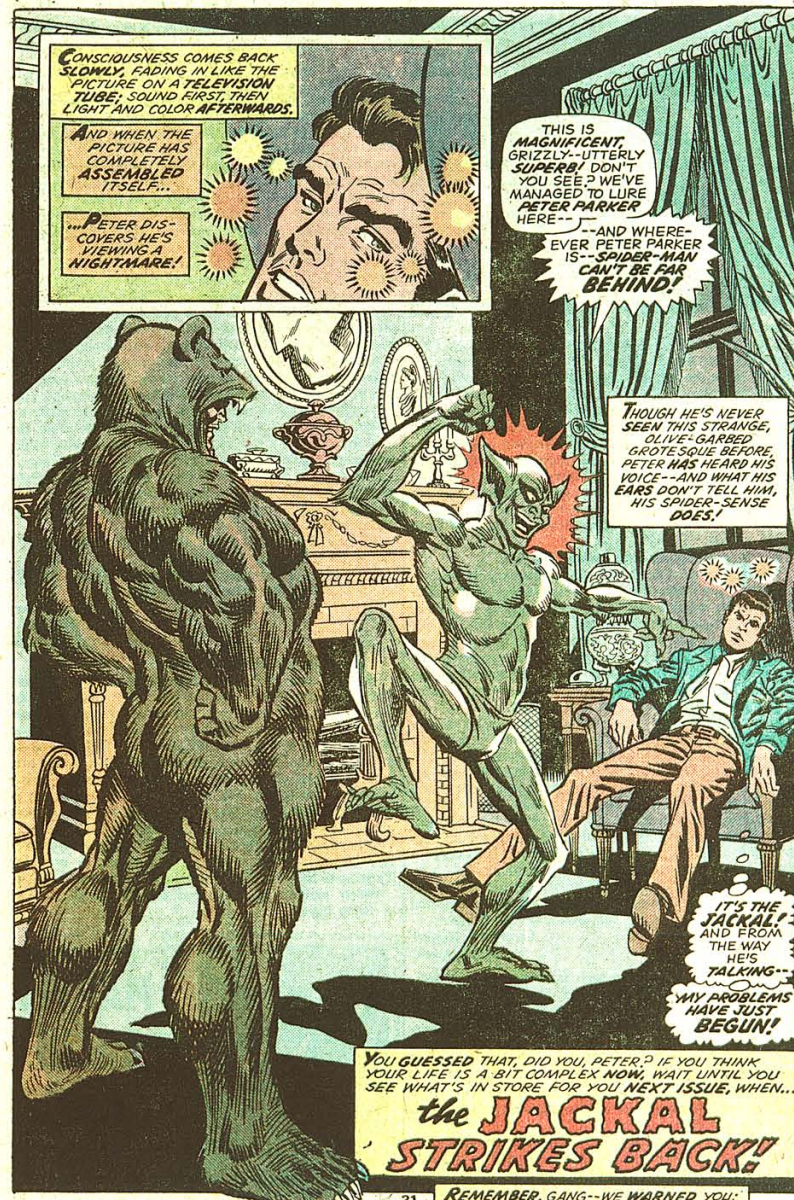


(Mr. Naylor has been training several years!)



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31



Dear Marvel,

I am disturbed by the consistent bad-rapping of Ross Andru in this letters column. I'm a diehard Romita fan myself. When he left SPIDER-MAN, I moaned. When he reappeared in ish #132, I cheered. But be fair to Ross Andru, huh? A look at his recent work, especially ish #136, which I just read, is more than ample proof that Mr. Andru's Spider-Man is really coming of age. I mean, the man is GOOD. As an unmitigated hater of the overexposed and frequently boring Green Goblin, I can say without bias that even HE looked good. So why let moping over the departure of one excellent artist blind you to the talents of one who is equally deserving of recognition? Ross Andru is an asset to Marveldom.

One more thing, re: page eleven of #136:

You don't wipe a death out of your memory. If you try burying it, the memory will only reassert itself in all kinds of unhealthy ways. There is no such thing as forgetting. To say that you have forgotten something like Gwen's death is to say that you don't want to face it; that running away is easier than facing the pain of loss, understanding that in some way it will always be with you and color your actions. This I know from having lost a father and a brother in tragic accidents less than a year apart.

It is time for Peter Parker to work through his sorrow and guilt about Gwen. Firstly, he has enough problems without this unsettled affair being dredged up and morbidly gazed at in odd moments. Secondly, it would provide his character with another badly-needed facet, i.e., a little added wisdom and humanity, as well as a slight crack that his friends should be able to see in that cynical exterior armor. Allow Petey to grow! Periods of great sorrow should also be periods of great growth, but this has not been the case with Pete/Spidey as yet, and it is 'way overdue.

One last note. Gerry Conway's story in SPIDEY #136 was a spellbinder! But please, please...do not overdo the Green Goblin yet again. He, too, should be laid to rest.

Caroline H. Nesbitt
(no address given)

People deal with tragedies such as Pete's and your own, Caroline, in myriad different ways. Pete had as his first priority, we think simply overcoming the numbing shock of Gwen's death—getting himself able to function again. He's done that now. He can think clearly: he can attend to life's everyday burdens, and he can even enjoy a few of the joys that living has to offer.

But, you're absolutely right—he has yet to fully come to grips with the totality of his feelings. And he's going to have to, eventually.

But in the meantime, he is growing. His life is undergoing some major alterations. And he's making new friends and learning from them, too. Give him time.

Oh, and before we move on...Gerry and Ross both say

thanks for the kind thoughts. Even if you don't like the Goblin.

Dear Marvel,

You know, it has suddenly occurred to me how much I like Mary Jane Watson.

I'm trying to figure out when this change in my attitude took place, because I disliked her for as long as I can remember. She was always chasing Pete, always hanging around when he preferred to be alone, and always trying to steal him from Gwen. Or so it seemed to me.

But now, all her selfish actions look unselfish, and all her phony attitudes appear sincere. Looking back, she had to care a lot and she had a lot of guts to stick with Peter after the things he said to her on page 28 of SPIDEY #122. I wonder if I would have been able to do the same thing.

Now, her constant coaxing and forcing him to go out don't seem to be an attempt to take Gwen's place so soon after her death, but simply knowing that this of all times was not the time to leave Pete alone, to brood and withdraw.

So what has developed in the months since Gwen's accident does not seem to have the makings of a romance, but of an intense, long-lasting and loving friendship. This, to me, is what we all need—Pete most of all, for whom has he got to turn to? Aunt May just can't fill the need, and now that Harry's a lost cause, who can Peter call a friend, someone to rely on? No one but M.J. is that close anymore.

There was a time when it upset me even to see Peter speak to her, and now I'm beginning to think that if Peter ever unburdens himself (secret identity and all) to anyone, it should be to Mary Jane.

All I can say is, he is a luck man, and she is someone I'd like to be able to say is my friend.

Thanks for your time, and, by the way, SPIDER-MAN #136, which prompted this letter, was excellent!

Nan Brower
15 So. Division St.
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10802

Some perceptive comments, Nan.

And it's not just your attitudes that have changed. Mary Jane herself has changed just a bit. She's still the fun-loving lady of issues past, but she's letting a little more of her serious side show through these days, if only to Pete. Our feeling is it was there all along, but M.J. was afraid to let it be seen. Somehow, we think her greatest fear may be that people will take her seriously, because that means becoming involved in the emotions and life-situations of others. And she's just not ready for that kind of commitment to anyone—except, perhaps, Peter Parker.

Of course, that's only our opinion. Things may work out very differently. But you've got to admit, in any case, it's going to be fascinating to watch her in the months ahead.

Which reminds us...we've run out of space! See you in thirty days!



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